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Humanising Automobile Centric Cities, A Case Of Sh. Zayed Road, Dubai

Since the end of the Second World War as the world economy recovered from devastation, automobiles were seen as a catalyst to aid in increasing economic mobility, reducing travel times, as well as generally being seen as the future of transportation. Thus, entire cities and countries were built to accommodate cars, with cars being inseparable from the popular image of a major, modern city. While it is true that the development of road networks have undoubtedly served as an important economic catalyst in many places, the toll that car-centric urban planning takes on cities are heavy. This creates cities subservient to cars, making people a secondary concern. This creates hostile environments for people in cities. This thesis examines the effects of such an automobile centric development in Dubai and attempts to design a network within the city that will serve the people and inculcate values of social intimacy, physical comfort and vibrancy within a largely demure modern city.